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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-43. (Previously cancelled)

44. (Currently Amended) A sustained culture of undifferentiated avian cells expressing an embryonic stem cell phenotype, comprising a preconditioned feeder matrix; conditioned media; and avian primordial germ cells and avian stromal cells, wherein the avian primordial germ cells and stromal cells are isolated together collected from an avian embryo at a stage later than stage 14 (H&H) according to the Hamburger & Hamilton staging system and grown in the sustained culture to produce undifferentiated avian cells expressing an embryonic stem cell phenotype.

45. (Currently Amended) The sustained culture of claim 44 wherein the avian stromal cells are ~~gonadal cells~~ isolated from the gonad of the avian embryo.

46. (Currently Amended) The sustained culture of claim 44 wherein the avian stromal cells are ~~genital ridge cells~~ isolated from the genital ridge of the avian embryo.

47. (Currently Amended) The sustained culture of claim 44 wherein the preconditioned feeder matrix ~~is derived from avian gonadal cells~~ comprises cells that have been isolated from the gonad of an avian embryo later than stage 14 according to the Hamburger & Hamilton staging system.

48. (Currently Amended) The sustained culture of claim 44 wherein the preconditioned feeder matrix ~~is derived from avian genital ridge cells~~ comprises cells that have been isolated from the genital ridge of an avian embryo later than state 14 according to the Hamburger & Hamilton staging system.

49. (Currently Withdrawn)

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50. (Currently Withdrawn)

51. (Currently Unamended) The sustained culture of claim 44 wherein the conditioned media is Buffalo Rat Liver (BRL) conditioned media.

52. (Currently Amended) The sustained culture of claim 44 wherein the condition media comprises a supplemental growth factor selected from the group consisting of leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF), insulin-like growth factor (IGF), fibroblast growth factor (FGF), basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF), stromal cell factor (SCF), steel factor (SF), transforming growth factor- β 1 (TGF- β 1), ~~and~~ anti-retinoic acid, and combinations thereof.

53. (Currently Unamended) The sustained culture of claim 44 wherein the embryonic stem cell phenotype is sustained for at least one month.

54. (Currently Unamended) The sustained culture of claim 44 wherein the embryonic stem cell phenotype is sustained for at least two months.

55. (New) The sustained culture of claim 44, wherein the avian is chicken.